



TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 23, 2015

ON BILL #5625, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF SURGERY

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Representative Srinivasan, Senator Markley and distinguished Members of the Committee:

My name is Christine Zarb. I am a Nurse Practitioner and a Certified Aesthetic Nurse Specialist. I own a small boutique medspa in Wilton and I work for a plastic surgery group in Greenwich. I have also worked for a dermatology private practice in the recent past. I am here today to state my opposition to Proposed Bill # 5625, An Act Concerning the Definition of Surgery.

Simply put, the definition is too broad. It encompasses many procedures that an APRN performs autonomously on a regular basis, within our scope of practice. To name a few in the aesthetic and dermatology settings:

- Injecting neurotoxins and fillers
- Laser and light therapies
- Chemical peels
- Micropigmentation (medical tattoo)
- Microneedling
- Ultrasound
- Shave and Punch Biopsies
- Suturing
- Cryotherapy
- Shaving/scraping (as in treatment for warts)
- Electrodesiccation
- Comedone Extractions
- Intralesional Injections



I certainly do NOT consider myself a surgeon for performing these minimally invasive procedures. I am very concerned that this broad definition will impact APRN scope of practice. If you choose to move forward with this vague definition I respectfully request that you include language that clearly states that it is not meant to prevent APRNs from practicing within their scope.

Furthermore, this proposed bill as written, would undermine the efforts of many people, including DPH members and professional providers, who spent a lot of time to come to a consensus on Public Act 14-119, regarding Medical Spas, passed just last year. As you may recall, the medspa bill clarified what professionals can perform which procedures, and took special care to consider every provider's scope of practice.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to Bill #5625 and I welcome any questions.

Respectfully,

Christine Zarb, APRN-BC, MPH, CANS
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